

JAN 14 1962

Approved For Release 1999/09/16 : CIA-RDP70-00058R000200100148-5

000,175

JAN 14 1962

Troop I & E

Early last year the White House ordered drastic revision of a speech prepared for delivery by Adm. Arleigh A. Burke, who was then Chief of Naval Operations. Eliminated from it was sharp criticism of the Soviet Union. At the time President Kennedy was trying to avoid recriminations in the cold war until the Soviet attitude toward his Administration could be assayed. He took the view that public statements by high officials of the Government should be "in accordance with the objectives of national policy." But the incident provoked charges that the Administration was "muzzling" its high ranking officers.

The controversy was given new impetus by the case of Maj. Gen. Edwin A. Walker, then commander of the Twenty-fourth Infantry Division in Germany. He was officially admonished for statements attacking the loyalty of such prominent Americans as former President Truman and Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, and for attempting to influence the votes of men in his command and their families. General Walker has since resigned his commission to campaign against what he called the "fifth column conspiracy" in the U. S. He is also active in the ultra-conservative John Birch Society.

A Senate Preparedness subcommittee has scheduled public hearings ten days hence into the questions of "censorship" of high-ranking members of the armed forces and troop indoctrination policies. Last week Senator John Stennis, Mississippi Democrat, chairman of the subcommittee, announced that Admiral Burke, who has since retired, will be the first witness, testifying on "censorship." General Walker will be called to testify when the subcommittee takes up the question of troop indoctrination.

On that question, the Defense Department during the week announced formation of a committee of civilians and officers to study the program. It will be headed by Karl E. Bendetsen, who was Under Secretary of the Army in the Truman Administration. Among other

members will be Admiral Burke and Allen W. Dulles, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency. The committee is expected to report around July 1.

The announcement brought a statement from Senator Strom Thurmond, South Carolina Democrat, a leader in the attacks on Defense Department policies in both areas. He said such a study committee was the "standard bureaucratic response to publicized revelations of shortcomings."